DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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Classification/Control Markings

This report contains unprocessed information. Plans and/or policies should not be evolved or modified solely on basis of this report.

1. COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AR)

2. REPORT NUMBER: (b)(3):10 USC

3. TITLE: (U) POLITICAL-PRESS PERSPECTIVES

4. PROJECT NUMBER: N/A

5. DATE OF INFORMATION: 790417

6. DATE OF REPORT: 790430

7. DATE & PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 790417, Buenos Aires

8. REFERENCES: (b)(3):10 USC 424

9. ASSESSMENT: SOURCE ___, INFO ___

10. ORIGINATOR: (b)(3):10 USC 424

11. REQUEST EVALUATION ___, DPQ ___ (country)
(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 42

12. PREPARING OFFICER: 13. APPROVING AUTHORITY
(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

14. SOURCE: American Embassy Officials

(b)(3):10 USC 424

15. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

DIRC YES ☐ NO ☒

16. SUMMARY/22. DETAILS: ~~(C)~~

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

Rec'd RDS-3B/ 22 MAY 79

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☐ COMMENT: ~~(C)~~ Since 7901 less government influence has been noted in press reports, and it is believed that relatively less ~~censorship~~ censorship currently is in progress. Nonetheless, government has intervened in the past and the memory is well emplanted, ~~censorship~~ limiting free expression. The most unfettered paper has been the Buenos Aires Herald; it currently is in the "point" regarding human rights and government responsibilities. The material in encl 1 should useful to analysts who receive FBIS reports. As suggested by the "Defense and Foreign Affairs" article "The Functioning of Strategic Intelligence, by Miles Copeland, in April 1977, the "bias," subscriber, termite,

(b)(3):10

17. SUBJECT AND AREA CODES:
105228 ARG US

18. DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR:
DIA *(original)*

DIA (DB-3E1)
DIA (DN-2)
USCINCSO (SCJ2-AD)
FICEURLANT
FBIS Asuncion
FBIS Washington DC

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Authority: EO 13526
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19. DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION DATA:
~~CLASSIFIED BY: DIAM 58-11, ENCL 3~~
~~5 DEC 78~~
~~DECLASSIFY ON : 30 APR 1985~~

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20. ENCLOSURES:
1, Enclosure:
1. APAO Memorandum, 790418, 1 cy, 3 pgs ~~(C)~~

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21. This IR contains 2 pages.

DD Form 1 SEP 76 1396

1 SEPT 62 EDITION MAY BE USED UNTIL 1 MAR 77

and maggot syndromes described in that article all appear to exist in the Argentine press. Updates on encl. 1 will be forwarded as available. This report has been coordinated with Embassy Buenos Aires.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

memorandum

DATE: April 18, 1979

REPLY TO ATTN OF: APAO - John Corr

SUBJECT: Notes on Buenos Aires Press

TO: Readers of USICA Daily Media Reaction Report

Here are a few notes on the current state of the Buenos Aires press. Future reports will follow:

La Nacion

Circulation 250,000. The most influential of Argentine newspapers because of its middle class and upper class readership. Considers itself to be Argentina's "New York Times". It identifies with the Nation, and as such tries to be prudent in its editorials. It is read by the large landed interests, cattle and farming, and by a broad cross section of upper and middle class Argentines, including intellectuals of moderate persuasion. This newspaper is strongly pro-American generally, but naturally identifies strongly with Argentina when it comes to nationalistic conflicts, e.g., human rights, with the U.S., Although the paper strongly supports a return to the rule of law. It often muffles criticism of the U.S. as part of an apparent policy of never letting our relations get out of hand. Its "Semana Politica" Sunday column is one of the most influential in the country. It is written by editorial writers Claudio Escribano and Luis Mario Lozzia. La Nacion is owned by the Mitre family.

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Clarin

Circulation 485,000, the largest in the Luso-Hispanic world. This paper is controlled by the MID (Movimiento de Integracion y Desarollo) and is used by this party as much as it dares, e.g., against Martinez de Hoz and his antiprotectionistic tariff policies. The MID writes the paper's editorials, which are not consistently strong on issues as are La Nacion and Prensa, two politically independent newspapers. Clarin is generally pro-American and supports our human rights policies as much as it can. Its economic editor, La Opinion alumnus Daniel Muchnik, likes to bait the U.S. Its assistant managing editor, Joaquin Morales Sola, writes the Sunday "Panorama Politico" column. He is said to have been brought down from his native Tucuman because of his close friendship with Gen. Bussi. U.S.S.R-origin economic and cultural articles appear frequently.

JC:bjj

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La Prensa

Circulation 70,000. La Prensa was fading away along with its aging readership when its courageous founder, Alberto Gainza Paz, died about 18 months ago. Under the new leadership of son Mazimo Gainza, the newspaper somewhat changed its makeup and layout, added the political weekly "observer" column and brought back Manfred Schoenfeld from London to write an international and local affairs column and then proceeded to become the leading Spanish-language voice supporting a return to a rule of law among Buenos Aires newspapers. La Prensa is pro-U.S. and flexibly traditionalist and it naturally sides with the GOA on nationalistic issues. It fights courageously for a return to a rule of law and the release of Timerman, but it thinks the visit of the OAS Human Rights Commission is an intrusion.

La Razon

Circulation 360,000. This moderate newspaper is owned by Ricardo Peralta Ramos. It is close to the Government and sympathetic to the Radicales. It carries no editorials; however its unsigned Saturday political column -- written by Horacio Daniel Rodriquez -- is of high quality and exceptionally well informed on what the MID and Peronists are doing to cause problems for Martinez de Hoz.

El Cronista Comercial

Circulation 45,000 (subscription only). Aspires with some success to be Argentina's Wall Street Journal. Owned by Mercado's owners. Strongly supports Martinez de Hoz. Generally friendly to U.S. Writer with pen name "Guicciardini" is reportedly Mariano Grondona.

Buenos Aires Herald

Circulation 13,000. Important for its vanguard human rights stance. This English-language newspaper generally supports the Government except on human rights matters. Strongly supports Martinez de Hoz. Some of its human rights thunder is being stolen by Prensa.

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La Opinion

Circulation about 15,000. A shadow of its former self in the Timerman heyday. Intervened by Government, but does not now have an interventor. It has been left to wither on the vine, except when the Economy Minister, who now funds the Burston-Marstellar effort, wants to shore up his image. No editorials.

Conviccion

Circulation 5,000. A Massera newspaper masquerading as a champion of civic virtue. What it is really thinking can be read between the lines of Managing Editor Hugo Lezama's front page signed comments. No future.

Cronica

Circulation 350,000. Populist and crudely nationalistic, caters to the frustration of Peronists. No editorials as such; however, editorial opinion is expressed in its headlines and coverage. Owned by Hector Ricardo Garcia, who also is owner of Buenos Aires theaters and Radio Colonia in Uruguay. Coverage of world events and important Argentine stories can be surprisingly complete.

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(b)(3):10 USC 42

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